RESTATEMENTS AND AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

The following is a list of claims currently pending in this application and their current status. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings in this application.

1-100. (Cancelled)

101. (New) A computer-implemented method of facilitating data entry and planning for a multitude of goods at a plurality of stores, the method including:

creating a causal calendar in machine readable memory that stores event data for the multitude of goods at the plurality of stores in event data tuples, each of said event data tuples comprising including a good identifier, a store identifier, a start date, a stop date and an event type identifier;

creating

at least one store hierarchy, said store hierarchy organizing the plurality of stores and containing selectable nodes, and

at least one goods hierarchy, said goods hierarchy organizing the multitude of goods and containing selectable nodes,

wherein the store hierarchy and the goods hierarchy simplify entry of the event data into the causal calendar;

presenting a user interface to a planning user, the user interface allowing

user selection of a goods node from the at least one goods hierarchy that represents an individual good and a goods node that represents a grouping of goods,

user selection of a stores node from the at least one store hierarchy that represents an individual store and a stores node that represents a grouping of stores, and

user selection of an event type using the event type identifier;

receiving, from the planning user via the user interface, user selections of nodes

with respect to the goods and store hierarchies, and of the event type identifier;

using the received user selections to create at least one event tuple in the causal calendar, wherein selection of the goods node and the stores node causes populating of the at least one event tuple to occur for all goods grouped with the goods node in the goods hierarchy and all stores grouped with the stores node in the store hierarchy;

periodically forecasting demand, using a processor, by accessing the event data tuple in the causal calendar and by applying demand modifiers associated with the selected event type identifier; and

generating analytical reports using the forecasted demand including at least one of ordering, distributing, and bottom-up planning reports.

102.   (New) The method of claim 101, wherein the selected goods node and the selected stores node associate the event type identifier with a single good at a group of stores.

103.   (New) The method of claim 101, wherein the selected goods node and the selected stores node associate the event type identifier with a group of goods at a single store.

104.   (New) The method of claim 101, wherein the selected goods node and the selected stores node associate the event type identifier with a group of goods at a group of stores.

105.   (New) The method of claim 101, further including as event types in the causal calendar events involving decisions by a retailer and exogenous events, wherein

the decisions by the retailer include price promotions, advertising promotions, promotions of substitute or complementary products, removal of substitute or complementary products from a selling assortment, and new product introduction; and

the exogenous events include approaching holiday events, seasonal events, and special events in a city that increase customer traffic at a store.

106.   (New) The method of claim 101, wherein the generating analytical reports uses the forecasted demand consistently to generate reports that support:

ordering items from suppliers,

allocating item inventory for seasonal or fashion items received from suppliers among stores,

distributing items from a distribution center to stores,

bottom-up planning of sales, on-hand inventory and receipt of items into inventory,

open to buy management reports that compare future inventory levels aggregated to a department level or higher with budgeted levels of inventory investment, and

markdown management that recommends timing and level of markdowns of seasonal or fashion items in order to sell out available inventory by a predetermined out date.